

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (canceled)
2. (canceled)
3. (canceled)
4. (canceled)
5. (canceled)
6. (canceled)
7. (canceled)
8. (canceled)
9. (canceled)
10. (canceled)
11. (canceled)
12. (canceled)
13. (canceled)
14. (canceled)
15. (canceled)
16. (canceled)
17. (canceled)

18. (canceled)

19. (currently amended) A method for preparing a concrete article comprised of mixing concrete, water and a reinforcing fiber for a sufficient time to fray only at an end or ends of at least 50 percent of the reinforcing fibers and curing the mixture to form the concrete article.

20. (currently amended) The method for preparing concrete of Claim 19 wherein the reinforcing fiber is comprised of at least two filaments bonded together and each filament being comprised of a polymeric core at least partially enveloped by a polymeric sheath comprised of a fusing-fraying polymer that has a lower melting temperature than the polymeric core, such that the reinforcing fiber, when mixed with the concrete, frays predominately only at an end or ends of the fiber.

21. (original) The method for preparing concrete of Claim 20 wherein the reinforcing fiber is comprised of a polypropylene core polymer at least partially enveloped by a sheath comprised of a fusing/fraying polymer selected from the group consisting of low density polyethylene, maleic anhydride grafted low density polyethylene, ethylene-styrene copolymer, polyethylene having a melt index from about 5 to about 35 and a density from about 0.9 g/cc to about 0.965 g/cc, ethylene acrylic copolymer and combinations thereof.

22. (original) The method of Claim 21 wherein the reinforcing fiber is in a paper bag when added to the mix and the fibers completely disperse uniformly into the mix within about a mixing time of about 5 minutes.

23. (original) The method of Claim 19 wherein the fibers after mixing have a surface area that is at most about ten times the surface of said fibers prior to mixing.

24. (original) The method of Claim 23 wherein the surface area after mixing is at least about 3 times the surface area prior to mixing.

25. (new) The method of Claim 21 wherein the fusing-fraying polymer is ethylene acrylic acid copolymer or ethylene styrene copolymer.

26. (new) The method of Claim 21 wherein the fusing/fraying polymer is polyethylene having a melt index from about 5 to about 35 and a density from about 0.9 g/cc to about 0.965 g/cc or combinations thereof.

27. (new) The method of Claim 21 wherein the sheath contains a mechanical activator polymer.

28. (new) The method of Claim 27 wherein the mechanical activator polymer is nylon, polyvinylalcohol, thermoplastic hydroxy-functionalized polyether or polyester or combinations thereof.

29. (new) The method of Claim 21 wherein the fusing/fraying polymer is the ethylene acrylic acid copolymer.

30. (new) The method of Claim 19 wherein the mixing time is at least about 5 minutes to at most about 20 minutes.

31. (new) The method of Claim 21 wherein the core polymer is polypropylene having a melt flow rate from about 4 to about 20.

32. (new) The method of Claim 31 wherein the core polymer is polypropylene having a melt flow rate from about 8 to about 16.